

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013327	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 23.11.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 23.12.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A23P1/08		
Applicant UNILEVER N.V.		
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i> a total of sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only)</i> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). 		
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 25.04.2005	Date of completion of this report 15.11.2005	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Vernier, F Telephone No. +49 89 2399-	



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/013327

Box No. I Basis of the report

- With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
- With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-15 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/1 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 the description, pages
 the claims, Nos.
 the drawings, sheets/figs
 the sequence listing (*specify*):
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 the description, pages
 the claims, Nos.
 the drawings, sheets/figs
 the sequence listing (*specify*):
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/013327

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-15
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-15
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-15
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013327

Item V

1. The following documents are considered:
D1: US-A-4 661 359
D2: EP-A-0 328 317
D3: US 2002/004089 A1
D4: THAKUR B R ET AL: "CHEMISTRY AND USES OF PECTIN - A REVIEW"
CRITICAL REVIEWS IN FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION, BOCA RATON,
FL, US, vol. 37, 1997, pages 47-73, XP009024042 ISSN: 1040-8398
D5: THARANATHAN R N: "Biodegradable films and composite coatings: past,
present and future" TRENDS IN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, GB, vol. 14, no. 3, March 2003 (2003-03),
pages 71-78, XP004421201 ISSN: 0924-2244
D6: US-A-4 672 034
D7: WO 92/01394 A
2. The subject-matter of present independant claims does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT, since D1 discloses an edible barrier suitable for use in food products, comprising a cross-linked biopolymer and a lipid, and having a thickness in the range of present claim 1 (see in particular the abstract and the claims of D1).
3. Discussion of the question whether the claimed subject-matter involves an inventive step (Article 33(2) PCT) is only of relevance once novelty has been established. However, it presently seems that none of the dependant claims contains subject-matter that would be suitable to render the claims inventive once novelty has been established. In particular, D2 discloses all features of present claim 1 except for the presence of a lipid material. However, this feature is well known, as can be seen from D7 (see cited passages). Furthermore, combinations of D1 as closest prior art and other cited documents could also be considered for judging inventive step.
4. Dependant claim 14 refers to a preferred embodiment of an oxidation step. However, the independant claim 13 from which it depends is silent on such an oxidation step, thus rendering claims 14-15 unclear (Article 6 PCT).